

I. Introduction

In July, 1998, upon the Declaration of DR-1231-NH (a Flood event), FEMA Region I Mitigation Division staff and the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Management conducted an assessment of New Hampshire's existing Hazard Mitigation planning tools and determined that there was not a viable plan in place which would satisfy the requirements of Section 409 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief Act.

The initial edition of this Plan was presented to FEMA on April 1, 1999. Per the Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 the State formally adopted this revised edition on October 24, 2004.

The Planning effort of the State is an ongoing process and the Plan is considered to be a "living document." Parts of this document are available on the NHBEM website.

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Authority

This Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the State of New Hampshire was prepared pursuant to Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Act), enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) (P.L. 106-390). This Act provides new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322 of DMA 2000 emphasizes the need for state, local, and tribal entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning and implementation efforts. It continues the requirement for a state mitigation plan as a condition of disaster assistance, and creates incentives for increased coordination and integration of mitigation activities at the State level through the establishment of criteria for two different levels of State plans, "standard" and "enhanced." The State of New Hampshire has developed a Standard State Plan. Accordingly, this Plan will hereinafter be referred to as the "Plan."

Authority for the development of this Plan by the Bureau of Emergency Management of the State of New Hampshire is contained in the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA), Chapter 21-P Section 21-P:37 (see Appendix A).

Purpose

The purpose of this Plan is to provide an overview of the natural hazards and human caused hazards that impact the State and to outline the State's plan for the mitigation of damages as may be associated with these events. This Plan will reveal in detail how the State will address planning for natural hazards and human caused hazards and reduce the impact of those hazards.

Scope of the Plan

The concept of a “Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan” for the entire State is a broad one indeed. The original 1999 version was divided in 4 sections (Executive Summary, Severe Wind Plan, Geologic Hazards and Winter Weather Hazards). However, for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 this revised edition considers each hazard together and is contained solely within this Plan.

Definition of Hazard Mitigation

“Hazard Mitigation means any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards” (44 CFR 206.401).

Assurances

The State of New Hampshire and the Department of Safety – Bureau of Emergency Management assures that the State will comply with all applicable federal statutes and regulations, at all times during which it receives grant funding. In compliance with 44 CFR 13.11 (c), the Bureau of Emergency Management will amend this plan whenever necessary to reflect changes in State or Federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 13.11 (d).



Errol, NH – Main Street Flooding